[*English*]

Use of Religious Places by Smugglers

5936. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that religious places in the country particularly in Maharashtra are being used by smugglers for smuggling operations;

(b) whether any such cases have been detected by the Government during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to stop such misuse of religious places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (d). Information is being collected from various enforcement agencies including Customs and Central Excise field formations, and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Sale of Foreign Cars

5937. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign cars disposed of by Diplomats in India are purchased by State Trading Corporation for sale to Government Departments or to public by auction;

(b) if so, the number of such cars purchased by the STC during the last three years; and

(c) the details regarding the rules followed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The foreign cars are purchased by STC for sale to both Government Departments and public by auction through sealed tenders periodically after giving due publicity.

(b) The number of cars purchased by STC during the last three years is given below:-

Year	*No.of cars*
1988-89	439
1989-90	545
1990-91	459

(c) The rules as notified by the Ministry of External Affairs regarding disposal of imported cars by diplomats include the following:-

- A motor vehicle imported by a privileged person or a privileged organisation will normally be permitted by the Government of India, on application in the existing prescribed form, to be re-exported or sold by the owner to another privileged person or privilaged organisation in India.

- Aalternatively, at the time of transfer or relinquishing of his post in India, a privileged person will be permitted to offer his car sale to the State Trading Corporation through the Ministry of External Affairs. For this purpose, the privileged person must submit an application to the Ministry of External Affairs as per prescribed form.

- Diplomatic Missions will be permitted to sell their 'Official/personal' cars normally after 3 years of import into India to STC. In case any diplomatic officer us transferred before the expiry of 3 years he would be permitted to sell his car to STC or to any

other privileged organisatioon with the permission of the Ministry of External Affairs.

- The depreciation rate of cars sold to STC by privileged persons and organisations is as follows:-

i) Cars imported on or before 31st March, 1990.

3% peer quarter on the diminishing value of car.

ii) For cars imported on or before 31st March, 1990

a. Old depreciation on rates would apply for the period of use of upto 31st March, 1990 i.e. 1% per quarter on the CIF value.

b. 3% per quarter on the diminishing value of the car for the period of use from 1st April, 1990 onwards.

- The CIF valuue of cars wil be based on manufacturer's invoice.

- In the case of new cars depreciation will be applied from the date of import as shown in the bill of entry. For the cars used abroad prior to import into India, the depreciation will apply from the date of invoice

Deposits in NHB

5938. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the total number of depositors and amount deposited in the National Housing Bank since its inception, year-wise and state-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): National Housing Bank (NHB) does not accept deposits directly from individuals. However, NHB is operating a Scheme called Home Loan Account (HLA) scheme which is being implemented with effect from 1.7.1989 under which deposits are made by the individuals. The scheme is operated through scheduled commercial banks and select housing finance companies. The estimated data of deposits under the HLA scheme for the last three years is as under:

Year as on	*No.of Accounts*	*Amount deposited* (Rs. in crores)
31.3.199	2.57 lakhs	26.19
31.3.1991	4.39 lakhs	84.61
31.1.1992	5.56 lakh	107.26

State-wise d ıon Home Loan Account Scheme as on 31.1.92 is set out in the Statement attached.

STATEMENT

Sl.No.	*Category*	*No. of Accounts* ('000s)	*Amount* (Rs.in lakhs)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	153.96	3313.08
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.000	0.000